



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 314

January Session, 2007

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1305

Senate, April 4, 2007

The Committee on General Law reported through SEN. COLAPIETRO of the 31st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL BUILDING OFFICIALS HOLDING PLUMBING OR ELECTRICAL LICENSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-334d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2008*):

3 (a) As used in this section:

4 (1) "Accredited continuing professional education" means any
5 education of an electrician or plumber that is designed to maintain
6 professional competence in the pursuit, practice and standards of
7 electrical work or plumbing and piping work and that is approved by
8 the commissioner and is provided by an organization, institution or
9 agency that is approved by the commissioner;

10 (2) "Certificate of continuing education" means a document issued
11 to an electrician or plumber by an organization, institution or agency
12 approved by the commissioner that offers accredited continuing

13 professional education, which (A) certifies that an electrician or
14 plumber has satisfactorily completed a specified number of continuing
15 education hours, and (B) bears the name of such organization,
16 institution or agency, the title of the program, the dates during which
17 the program was conducted, the number of continuing education
18 hours satisfactorily completed and the signature of the director of such
19 organization, institution or agency or the signature of the director's
20 authorized agent;

21 (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer
22 Protection.

23 (b) The commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the
24 Electrical Work Board established pursuant to subsection (b) of section
25 20-331, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to (1)
26 establish requirements for accredited continuing professional
27 education for electricians licensed pursuant to sections 20-330 to 20-
28 341, inclusive; (2) establish qualifying criteria for accredited continuing
29 professional education programs and establish qualifying criteria for
30 acceptable certificates of continuing education; and (3) provide for the
31 waiver of required accredited continuing professional education for
32 electricians for good cause, including, but not limited to, the waiver of
33 continuing professional education requirements under this subsection
34 for municipal building officials in good standing who hold current
35 electrician's licenses issued pursuant to this chapter and who have
36 completed relevant continuing professional education courses for
37 building officials.

38 (c) The commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the
39 Plumbing and Piping Work Board established pursuant to subsection
40 (d) of section 20-331, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
41 chapter 54, to (1) establish requirements for accredited continuing
42 professional education for plumbers licensed pursuant to sections 20-
43 330 to 20-341, inclusive, which regulations shall require not more than
44 a total of seven hours of accredited continuing professional education
45 every two years, except in the event of significant changes to the

46 building code, as approved by the Building Officials and Code
47 Administrators International, Incorporated, that relate to plumbing,
48 the commissioner, at such commissioner's discretion, may require
49 more than a total of seven hours of accredited continuing professional
50 education every two years; (2) establish qualifying criteria for
51 accredited continuing professional education programs and establish
52 qualifying criteria for acceptable certificates of continuing education;
53 and (3) provide for the waiver of required accredited continuing
54 professional education for plumbers for good cause, including, but not
55 limited to, the waiver of continuing professional education
56 requirements under this subsection for municipal building officials in
57 good standing who hold current plumber's licenses issued pursuant to
58 this chapter and who have completed relevant continuing professional
59 education courses for building officials.

60 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,
61 any person who has been issued a P-6, P-7, W-8 or W-9 license
62 pursuant to section 20-334a and the regulations of Connecticut state
63 agencies shall not be required to meet the continuing education
64 requirements established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	January 1, 2008	20-334d
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GL *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
All Municipalities	Savings	Potential Indeterminate	Potential Indeterminate

Explanation

This bill could result in savings to municipalities since the bill establishes certain waiver criteria of continuing education credits for municipal building officials who have current plumbing or electrical licenses, and who have completed relevant continuing education credits. The amount of savings that could be experienced by the state's cities and towns as a result of this bill cannot be determined at this time.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future, subject to inflation and to the amount of continuing education credits that are foregone, which cannot be determined at this time.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1305*****AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL BUILDING OFFICIALS
HOLDING PLUMBING OR ELECTRICAL LICENSES.*****SUMMARY:**

The law requires electricians and plumbers to take continuing education courses as a condition of renewing their annual licenses. It requires the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the respective licensing boards, to adopt regulations establishing a waiver for good cause. The bill specifies that good cause includes waiving the requirement for municipal building officials in good standing who have current licenses and have completed relevant continuing professional education courses for building officials.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008

BACKGROUND***Licensure Continuing Education Requirements***

The law requires the DCP commissioner to adopt regulations setting the minimum number of credit hours each licensee must take, but it limits the number of hours that the regulations may require plumbers to take to seven credit hours every two years. If there are significant changes to the building code relating to plumbing, the DCP commissioner may increase the requirement. The regulations require electricians to obtain at least seven credit hours each year before license renewal (CGS § 20-334d and Conn. Agencies Reg. § 20-334d-1).

Building Office Continuing Education Courses

State law requires (1) the State Building Inspector to conduct or approve continuing education programs designed to train building officials to carry out their duties and (2) the courses to consist of at

least 90 hours of training every three years (CGS §29-262)

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/14/2007)